

implicit faith the people put their future entirely into the hands of God and their prophet-leader, Brigham Young.

THE TREK ACROSS IOWA, 1846

And so, early in 1846 over 15,000 Mormons began the long and difficult journey which was to lead eventually to a new birth of freedom in the mighty solitudes of Utah.

The evacuation of Nauvoo began on February 4, much earlier than the Saints had anticipated. Mob violence had become too severe for them to remain longer. If bloodshed was to be averted, they must leave, although the ground was covered with deep snow, the temperature twenty degrees below zero, and the people only partially prepared for the long journey which lay ahead of them.



EXODUS FROM NAUVOO, ILLINOIS, BY J. B. FAIRBANKS

The refugees traveled a little way in Iowa, and established temporary camp on Sugar Creek while they waited for others to join them. In this barren, wintry camp, nine babies were born the first night. Brigham Young and the other members of the Twelve crossed the Mississippi on February 13 and joined the exiles on Sugar Creek. On March 1, camp was broken and the trek across Iowa was begun.

Daily progress was pitifully slow. Heavy spring rains set in, turning little creeks into impassable rushing torrents, and delays were necessitated until swollen rivers were smaller. At night the wagon wheels would become